



WISCONSIN OFFICE OF STATE TREASURER "KEEPING AN EYE ON YOUR MONEY"

Volume 2, Issue 6

June 15, 2012

A Grand Slam at Miller Park



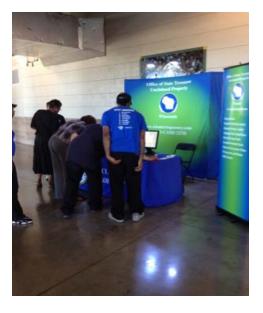
On the Jumbotron at Miller Park!

Thousands of baseball fans had the chance to search through the Unclaimed Property Database on June 7th at Miller Park as the Milwaukee Brewers took on rivals, The Chicago Cubs.

The Office of State Treasurer holds many outreach events throughout the year to help people who may not even know they have unclaimed money or who need help with the claim forms.

Right now, the Unclaimed Property Unit is on pace to shatter the 2011 record of \$34 Million returned. In just 5 months, we returned more than \$18 million and will surpass \$19 million before the end of June.

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Helping baseball fans find cash!

Making Sure WI Businesses Follow Unclaimed Property Laws

By Mary Celentani Unclaimed Property Administrator

Historically, unclaimed property staff members have focused on locating owners of unclaimed property and processing claims. The program has established policies and procedures for the most efficient review and approval of claims, and even a "fast-tracking" option that allows for paperless claims. Recently, we have returned more than \$3,000,000 per month to Wisconsin citizens and businesses.

However, beginning this summer, the unclaimed property Holder Reporting staff members will concentrate their outreach efforts to increase compliance with the unclaimed property law by Wisconsin businesses. Recently, Holder Reporting Coordinator Shannon Churchill and Program Administrator Mary Celentani at-

tended a conference dedicated to contacting and educating businesses on their reporting responsibilities.

The staff will be meeting with certified public accountants, business law attorneys, corporate treasury employees and business organizations to explain the unclaimed property law, identify the types of financial assets that are subject to the law, how to develop internal audit and controls, review the holding periods and owner notification requirements, and the reporting process. Holder Reporting staff recently attended the Madison Business Expo, and have commitments with the State Bar of Wisconsin in June and the Wisconsin Society of CPAs in August and November.

Information on unclaimed property reporting, such as the 2012 Holder Reporting Guide for 2012 and Chapter 177 of the

Statutes are available at the State Treasury website as well as reporting software products and staff contact information. Some Wisconsin businesses have already joined unclaimed property business organizations such as the Unclaimed Property Professionals Organization (UPPO) or the National Association of Unclaimed Property Administrators (NAUPA). Both organizations hold annual conferences and seminars to help businesses with compliance issues.

If you would like more information about Unclaimed Property identification and reporting or to meet with agency Holder Reporting staff, please contact Mary Celentani at 608-267-2208.

Want to know what is required of ALL Wisconsin
Businesses?
Visit wismissingmoney.com

Treasury Notes

The Economy & You: Understanding How the State Investment Board Uses Benchmarks

An article appeared in the May 2012 WRS News newsletter that I thought was informative as to how the <u>State of Wisconsin</u> Investment Board (SWIB) utilizes <u>stock indexes</u> to formulate their performance benchmarks. The article has been reprinted here for your review..

Benchmarks and indexes are two words that stick out when reading about investments and the Wisconsin Retirement System (WRS). But understanding what they mean and how the State of Wisconsin Investment Board (SWIB) uses them can be confusing.

Can you compare the Dow Jones or the S&P 500 Index directly to SWIB's benchmarks? The answer is no.

The Core Fund includes a mixture of asset types including domestic and international stocks, real estate and bonds. Because of its diversity, the Core Fund benchmark is mainly a composite of several market indexes including the Russell 3000, considered a measure of the <u>U.S. stock market</u> as a whole, along with several international indexes, bond indexes and measures for other asset classes. The Variable Fund includes the Russell 3000 and Morgan Stanley World Index ex U.S. plus emerging markets, which reflects the mix of U.S. and international stocks.

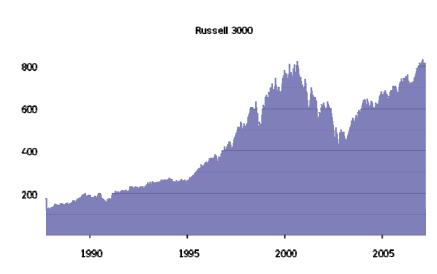
SWIB uses these indexes as part of the decision-making process when setting investment benchmarks. For 2011, SWIB exceeded its benchmarks for both the Core and Variable Trust Funds. SWIB's trustees and a consultant review and set the total fund, each asset class and individual portfolio benchmarks. To the best extent possible, a portfolio benchmark represents the class, or range, of investments that the manager is allowed to use for investment. The investment objective is then to perform better than the applicable benchmark.

Here are the two stock indexes used by SWIB to establish benchmarks.

MSCI ACWI Ex-U.S.

A market-capitalization-weighted index maintained by Morgan Stanley Capital International (MSCI) and designed to provide a broad measure of stock performance throughout the world, excluding U.S.-based companies. The MSCI All Country

World Index Ex-U.S. (MSCI ACWI Ex-U.S.) includes both developed and emerging markets.



Russell 3000 historical graph (Photo credit: Wikipedia)

RUSSELL 3000

The <u>Russell 3000 Index</u> is one of 21 U.S. equity indexes produced by the Frank Russell Company that are market capweighted. It includes only common stocks incorporated in the U.S. and its territories and represents 98 percent of the investable U.S. equity market. The Russell 3000 is considered a measure of the market as a whole.

These are other, well known indexes that reflect the general market performance, but are not used by SWIB when setting benchmarks.

DOW JONES INDUSTRIAL AVERAGE

The Dow Jones is the most widely used indicator of the overall condition of the U.S. stock market. It is a price-weighted average of 30 actively traded blue chip stocks.

STANDARD & POOR's 500 INDEX

The S&P 500 is widely regarded as the standard for measuring large-cap U.S. stock market performance. This index includes a representative sample of 500 leading industries.

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The Big Board

Unclaimed Property (numbers approx.)		Local Gov. Investment Pool - May 2012		
	<u>May 2012</u>	\$2,587,128,030	May Balance	
\$402,472,944	Program Value	\$539,959,294	Total Deposits	
2,015,672	Number of Accounts	\$965,792,733	Total Withdrawals	
		\$363,171	Interest Earnings	
3,536	Claims Paid May 2012	Ψ505,171	merest zarmigs	
\$3,253,533	Claims May 2012	College Savings Plan—May 2012		
		1,334	New Accounts	
\$17,860,832	Amount in Claims Paid	267,654	Total Accounts	
4.4.04.4	(2012)	\$2,920,179,234	Program Value	
14,814	Number of Claims Paid			
	(2012)	Board of Comm	nissioners of Public Lands	
\$41,078,333	Amount Remitted from		(numbers approx) - May 2012	
	Holders	\$876,789,725	Assets or Principal	
	(Oct. 2011-May 2012)	76,348	Acres under Stewardship	
7 620	Holder Deports	\$133.4 million	Aid to Public School	
7,630	Holder Reports (Oct. 2011-May 2012)		Libraries (2008-2012)	
	(001. 2011 May 2012)		, , ,	

Think About Higher Education this Summer

School's out, but that doesn't mean forgetting about classes until the fall, especially if you're thinking about education after high school. "Summer is a good time for parents and students to talk about higher education plans," according to Jim DiUlio, Director of Wisconsin's 529 College Savings Program. "Families often have more time for conversation or contact our call center with their questions," he added.

Parents should be saving early, since the earlier you can start, the better off you will be. How you invest depends on the child's age and how much risk you are willing to take with the investment. Saving through a 529 plan such as Wisconsin's *EdVest* offers some tax advantages at both the state and federal level. Many families also keep accounts open through

college and even into graduate or professional school.

Checking with high school counselors can be helpful. They are a good resource for information about financial aid, scholarships, and related sources. You should ask if the school offers extra activities that may help the student prepare for college.

Students have a part to play as well. They should be thinking about taking challenging courses and developing strong study skills before and during their high school years. Summer jobs are another way to help pay for higher education and may also give an introduction to certain careers. Parents can help students develop good savings habits as part of the family savings goal.



There are a number of deadlines for required college admission tests, financial aid forms, applying to college, and scholarships. High school counselors are a good information resource, but it is both the student's and parents' responsibility to respond early to avoid last-minute delays, even when responding through a website.

For more information about preparing for college and financial aid, DiUlio recommends the national website www.studentaid.ed.gov as well as officials at the colleges you are considering. Information about tax-advantaged college savings is at www.edvest.com or www.collegesavings.org. The EdVest call center number is 1-888-338-3789.





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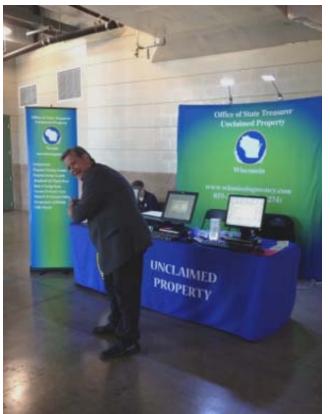
The State Treasurer is tasked with managing more than \$400 million in Unclaimed Property and is also a Commissioner on the Board of Commissioners of Public Lands. He is also an avid promoter of Wisconsin's College Savings Plans the and Local Government Investment Pool.

Unclaimed Property: The office maintains custody and records for all property received under the uniform unclaimed property act and general escheat laws. Those with unclaimed property submit proper paperwork and examiners work to get their money back to them as quickly as possible.

Wisconsin's "529" College Savings Plan: Known as EdVest. The funds are managed by Wells Fargo Funds Management, LLC. You can open an account on behalf of a designated beneficiary and the earnings will grow state and federal tax free until the time the beneficiary is ready to continue their post-secondary education including two and four-year colleges, technical, vocational, and graduate schools. Wisconsin residents can claim up to a \$3,000 credit on state taxes per account.

The Local Government Investment Pool: This program allows local government entities to pool funds with state funds which are then invested by the State of Wisconsin Investment Board. Funds deposited in the pool are available for withdrawal on one day's notice and without penalty on interest earnings. Interest is credited to the local government accounts monthly. Average daily balance in the pool now exceeds \$3.1 billion.

For questions about "Treasury Notes", please email Ron Giordan, Communications Director at <u>ron.giordan@wisconsin.gov</u> or call Ron at 608-266-5757.



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If you are interested in having the Treasurer come to your district for an outreach event and to help your constituents search for their unclaimed cash, please call 608-266-5757 and ask for Ron or send an email to

ostsocialmedia@wisconsin.gov and we will work with you for a date and location.



Have you checked out our monthly eBay Auction? Find us on eBay by visiting www.wismissingmoney.com and clicking on the eBay logo!

Treasurer Schuller preparing for his plate appearance at Miller Park!

T-Notes is a newsletter provided to Legislators, their staff and the Media to provide them with information regarding this office and the important work the staff of Office of State Treasurer does T-Notes is published at no cost to the taxpayers; the office does not run on taxpayer dollars.